

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 2003

The regular meeting of the Edgefield County Council was held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, February 4, 2003, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield. Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited after Mr. Kneece gave the invocation.

Members present:

Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel Hudson, Councilman
Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present:

Wayne Adams, County Administrator
John Byrd, County Attorney
Barbara Stark, Clerk to Council
and others as per list attached

Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2003, Regular Meeting of Edgefield County Council, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

No correction to any of the reports. Chairman commented on the letter of resignation received from Mr. Henry Coleman, County Engineer, effective March 2003.

Ordinances

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-431, "An Ordinance Amending Title XV of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances to Clarify Regulations Concerning the Establishment and Operation of Home Occupation Businesses in Zoned Areas of the County." Motion carried unanimously.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-432, "An Ordinance Amending the Edgefield County Zoning Map to Change the Zoning Designation of Tax Parcel 15-00-00-066 From Residential Development (RD) to Limited Commercial (LC)", was postponed until a public hearing can be held in the Merriwether area, as requested by Councilman Hudson. He feels council should hear what the people in that area has to say. Mr. Hudson stated that the sign that was placed there concerning this issue should be much larger. The present one is very hard to see because it is so small. (Mr. Jay Lacy was present to speak on this ordinance. It is involving his property. Mr. Lacy stated that he has signed petitions

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 2003

from all of the homeowners and people concerned in that area. They have accepted the idea of convenient services of the strip mall Mr. Lacy wants to build. It will not be a very large revenue because it will be a small center. Edgefield County will reap the one percent option sales tax which will really benefit the county and the other landowners in that area.)

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-433, "An Ordinance Providing for a Lease and Agreement Between Edgefield County and Plane Fun, Inc., Whereby the Latter Shall Lease the Premises of the Trenton Airport and Serve As the Airport's Fixed Base Operator." Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the request of the Edgefield Civic League/Courtesy Center for the third quarter payment of \$4,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve the appropriation request of the Edgefield Dixie Youth Baseball for \$2,700.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Rebecca A. Lee-Grigg addressed council concerning funding of \$5,000.00 for MEG'S House. Dr. Grigg stated that during 2002 MEG'S House served eleven women and sixteen children from Edgefield County; a total of 385 shelter days. A counselor comes to Edgefield every week and provides counseling sessions at DSS. Have done community education in schools and adult education centers in Edgefield, as well as a professional training that was conducted at Aiken Co-op earlier this year. Total budget for MEG'S House is approximately \$350,00.00. Chairman Kneece asked Dr. Grigg about the financial statement council received showing a fund balance of \$344,440.00 at the end of the period. Councilman Hudson asked that she discuss the fund balance with her accountant and she said she would. Councilman Hudson made a motion to receive this request as information and bring back to council at the next regular meeting. Seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously. This motion also for the GAMES Coalition for the Homeless (requesting funding of \$2,300.00).

At this time, Mr. Roosevelt Scott spoke concerning Bettis Park adult recreation. Mr. Scott appeared before council at the January meeting requesting funding from the county. He did not have any budget figures at that time so council asked him to get some figures and come back to council. Mr. Scott stated he did have the figures he felt it would take to run a successful program (presented to council a 2003 projected yearly expenses of \$14,064.00). This is an independent team (ages 16 through 25). Play teams out of Atlanta and some of the local teams (Greenville, Anderson, Clemson, Columbia areas). Councilman Bright asked Mr. Scott what kind of money was he requesting. Mr. Scott said they would accept whatever is given. Would like to get somewhere around half, if

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 2003

possible; will accept anything that is given. The balance in account 806-279, as of this date, is \$15,924.40. This is prior to the Civic League's third quarter appropriation being approved and the Dixie Youth Baseball for Edgefield. These are the only two approved at this time. \$9,224.40 left and still have \$4,000.00 to pay to the Civic League for the fourth quarter and Johnston Baseball. Combined total for the pending requests will be over what is left in the account before council addresses the issue of MEG's House or GAMES. Anything over and above that would have to come from council's contingency account, which now has \$97,746.97. Bettis Park has not gotten its money, as well. Councilman Bright made a motion to receive this request as information until the next council meeting. Councilman Hudson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to appoint a representative from Bettis Park to serve on the recreation committee. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item of business was authorization by council concerning a project for the spring CDBG funding cycle. Chairman Kneece stated that there is only one project at this time: the Senior Citizens Center. The Center was on at the time the water line in Mr. Dorn's area. The Center was postponed at that time. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to allow the Senior Citizens to apply for CDBG funding during the spring cycle. Motion carried unanimously.

The Edgefield County Fire Board recommended to the county council the following individuals for appointment to the Fire Board. They have agreed to serve.

Ken Durham	Edgefield City
Mart Adams	Johnston
Joe Roswech	Countyline
Rudy Brooks	Merriwether
William Forest	Northside
Joe Holmes	Trenton
David Jones	Westside

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the appointments recommended by the Edgefield County Fire Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

The following appointments were brought back to council from the January 2003 regular meeting of county council:

Edgefield County Economic Development Committee:
John Pettigrew & Sam Speight have resigned, effective 12/31/02)

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 2003

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Kneece, to appoint Mr. Alex Merriweather of 136 Community Road, North Augusta, 29860, to serve on the Edgefield County Economic Development Committee. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Kneece, to appoint Mr. Joey Hadden of 306 Peter Carnes Dr., North Augusta, SC 29860, to serve on the Edgefield County Economic Development Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Edgefield County Water & Sewer Authority

(Terms of Daniel R. Day and John C. Timmerman expired
September 26, 2002. Messrs. Day and Timmerman have agreed to
serve another six year term. Mr. Day's original term began 8/31/92
and Mr. Timmerman's original term began 1/2/97.

Mr. Joseph P. Curry is resigning and his term expires September 26,
2003. Appointment to fill unexpired term.

Edgefield County Health Professional Scholarship Board

(Joe Seel resigned: Dr. Robert Buist, Kitty Wates, Sammie Williams,
Viola Jackson, appointed in April 2001 to two year terms)

Motion was made by Chairman Kneece to appoint Patsy Black of 913 Lakeview Dr., Johnston to serve on the Edgefield County Health Professional Scholarship Board. Seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Kitty Wates, a member of the Edgefield County Health Professional Scholarship Board was present to update the council on the Scholarship Board. Mrs. Wates: "Last week I was asked to take that 'box' (Joe Seel has had the box for several years). I have been through it and it will take longer to straighten it than I have right now during tax season. What I am going to say is my opinion; not the board's. Some changes need to be made to this committee. I am a CPA; therefore, I see money and controls over money. I do not like to see one person in the county having county funds that they dispense, they collect – that is a county job. The purpose of this committee should be to review any applications from the committee that have applied for funds, but this committee should not dispense the money and should not be responsible for collecting the money. Mr. Seel had been using the hospital collection agency, hospital postage, etc. We have no funds to pay from. With him gone we have no access to those things. Also, I am not sure this committee is doing what it was designed to do. It was designed to bring health professionals from Edgefield County back into the county. When I look back through the people that have gotten scholarships and have seen how few of them have come back to the county, it is not doing what it was designed to do. I can't see very many that have come back. I would like maybe to see some changes made basically. I am at USC-Aiken and there is a lot of funding available for federal funds, for scholarships, for loans, and I see that almost any student that really wants to go to school has access to an education. I

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 2003

would like to see maybe something that, if you go to school, when you complete your four-year degree and you come back to Edgefield County and work, then for every year you work if you attended a four year institution, will pay up to \$1,000 for five years on your student loan; if you have a two-year degree, up to \$500 per year, so that we would not be giving money to people that don't come back to Edgefield County. It is extremely difficult to collect the money – almost no way we can collect it. So, I don't see that this fund is doing what it should be, and I also don't think that one person should have it. I think the money that Mr. Seel gave in the letter, the fund balances are correct, as far as I can tell. Don't think Mr. Seel took a dime. He was very good. He was doing basically everything. The only thing the committee was doing was meeting "yes" this person, "no" this person." Mr. Kneece: "What I remember from that fund, and it has been quite a while since we have had a report, if anybody got a scholarship fund from Edgefield County and agreed to come back to work in the county, that fund would be written off or paid back at a minimum. If they left the county and went somewhere else they would pay back the full amount of the money. I know we had an collection drive." Mrs. Wates stated they have also done that. But having a collection drive and getting the dollars are two different things." Mr. Kneece said what he would like to recommend, if you (Mrs. Wates) and the board would do it, straighten the mess out the best you can and come back to council with recommendations of what should be done. Give council some ideas. Mrs. Wates reiterated this is her opinion, she has not talked with anyone on the board. Really feel some changes need to be made. County needs to have control over the money, not any individual. Councilman Kitchens asked Mrs. Wates if she felt the 'fund' had outlived its usefulness. Her opinion, "yes." Mrs. Wates said "I do not see where the people who are getting-there are so few, maybe one, since I have been on the committee, has come back to Edgefield County. There are about four outstanding loans that we need to check on, whether they are in school or in Edgefield County. Only one person is paying and think she is past due since last May." Mr. Kneece asked Mrs. Wates is recommended just do away with the scholarship fund and let individuals get the money from somewhere else."(Councilman Dorn disagreed.) Mrs. Wates said she would not mind seeing some incentive but the way it is set up now it needs to be changed. The chairman asked Mrs. Wates to come back to council in a month or two months, whenever she has a better feeling about this, with recommendations she and the board would like to see changed. Councilman Hudson stated he did like what Mrs. Wates recommended, and that is if people can get the loans, grants, etc. and come back to Edgefield County to work, instead of giving them the scholarship to start school we will pay so much a year on theirs. That is guaranteeing they will be here or we will not pay it. Mrs. Wates said she felt it would be the lesser dollar option too. Mr. Kneece they either come back to Edgefield County or they pay the tuition money back. Councilman Dorn asked the balance of the account. She said there are two accounts: checking account \$1,743.67; CD, \$3,233.62; four current loans she does not know the status of. Consensus of council was to have Mrs. Wates come back to council with recommendation (s).

There being no further business, Councilman Dorn made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Hudson. The next regular meeting will be held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, March 4, 2003.

1. EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 2003

C.Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

